

# West Ilsley News

[www.westilsley.org.uk](http://www.westilsley.org.uk)



Our thanks on behalf of everyone to our delivery team for another year's service - Anne, Angus, Kay, Carrie-Anne and John. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

The Editors

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY

This will take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at Rowles Farm Barn at 4pm. The main cast is in place and rehearsals are going well. However we are looking for younger children aged about 3+ to support as angels and boys to support as shepherds.

If your child would like to join in, it is important that they come to the practices and meetings mentioned below. If they miss out they will not know what to do and where to go on stage. We are hoping for a big crowd who are paying to watch the performance so it needs to be well rehearsed. The practices are as follows:

Wednesday 8 December 6-7pm at Rowles Farm Barn (Children can be left with us)

Thursday 9 December 6-7pm in the Village Hall. All cast and parents meeting including musicians and ushers. Final plans and costumes will be discussed.

Friday 17 December 4-6pm at Rowles Farm Barn. Full dress rehearsal - all to attend. Bring a drink and snack with you if you like.

Please can the parents provide a costume. We have a simple girls white angel dress pattern and the head dresses, sashes and stars will be provided. For the boys the same pattern doubles up if it is made out of beige or brown material, patterned or striped. A strip of the same fabric can be tied around the waist and a square for the head dress held in place by another piece of fabric. These will be demonstrated at the Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Tickets are now on sale so please bring your family and friends. The production includes live animals, your lovely children and a beautiful setting. The perfect way to begin Christmas.

Call me if your child would like to take part.

Angela Ryan 281500

Nativity Play coordinator

## EVERGREENS Anne Carlisle

The Christmas Lunch will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December at the Windmill Carvery, Burford. The coach will leave from outside the Church in West Ilsley at 10.45 am.

The Bazaar held in the Village Hall on November 20<sup>th</sup> made £423.53. A big thank you to all those who helped and contributed for the funds.

## THANK YOU Olive Clarke

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to everyone who kindly sent me get well cards, flowers etc and visited me during my stay in hospital and a special thanks to my family. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH WEST ILSLEY William and Alexandra Axtell

Services for December

5 <sup>th</sup> December	All Age Service	11.00am
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service	6.00pm
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Play (Rowles Farm Barn)	4.00pm
Christmas Day	Family Communion	10.00am
Boxing Day	United Benefice Holy Communion at Beedon	09.00am

## DIARY

DECEMBER

5 <sup>TH</sup>	ILSLEY SCHOOLS BAZAAR
10 <sup>TH</sup>	BINGO
11 <sup>TH</sup>	EVERGREENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH
12 <sup>TH</sup>	CAROL SERVICE
19 <sup>TH</sup>	NATIVITY PLAY
	JANUARY
10 <sup>TH</sup>	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Deadline for the next publication is 5pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December

Contact details:

Andrea Cook  
Clock Cottage  
☎ 281224

Email: [andreacooklimited@msn.com](mailto:andreacooklimited@msn.com)

Lynne Smith  
Ridgeways  
☎ 281163

Email: [lynesmith@palgo.u-net.com](mailto:lynesmith@palgo.u-net.com)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Fred Carter

In the Garden

A staggering £4.4 billion was spent on gardening products in 2003 and that kind of investment makes your garden a target for the light fingered.

Insurers reported a significant increase in the number of garden theft claims over the previous two summers, and they expect a rise again this year. Most of us consider our patios and gardens as part of our home yet fail to secure property left outside.

More than three-quarters of us do not store our garden furniture over night and nearly half leave barbecues out at night. Other items left for out for burglars include toys (26.4%) gardening tools (17.5%) and bicycles (8%)

The crazy thing is that four out of five of us will make sure we fit secure door and window locks to our home but we switch off where security outdoors is concerned, even leaving the shed door unlocked – and that despite the fact that the average contents value of a UK garden shed has been estimated at £2500.

Keep your boundary fences and walls regularly maintained to make sure it is not possible to just slip into your back garden. Do not leave valuables in the open – if you do not have a shed, either put them in the house or cover them up and place them against a wall. Ensure that ladders and tools are locked away or chained up securely. Defensive planting can be simple, colourful and effective. A traditional hedge can be one of the best deterrents, especially a spiky one



## CRIME REPORT

*Our thanks to PC Andrew Buckingham who emails us with his NWN article, from which we extract items which may be valuable in keeping villagers alert to what's going on in the area:*

Over recent weeks trailer theft has increased with trailers having been stolen from Leckhampstead, Lambourn Woodlands and overnight between Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th a blue Richardson Beaver Tail trailer was stolen from Shefford Woodlands. The thieves obviously have to use a vehicle of some description. If you see a strange vehicle 'skulking about' or being driven through your farmyard and the occupants offer a spurious excuse for their presence, without compromising yourself jot the number down and let me know, it might be nothing.....but then again it might be something.

One to be aware of especially as the Christmas shopping season will soon be upon us. Last Tuesday 16th a lady had her purse stolen from her handbag in Hungerford High Street.

Last year West Berkshire and South Oxfordshire police areas ran a joint operation over the winter months targeting illegal hare coursing. We are doing the same again this year and on Saturday police patrols responded to reports of coursers on the Lambourn Downs. Five men from the Slough area were apprehended and reported.

FOR SALE

17" TV

£5.00

Money for Evergreen Funds

Phone 281552

## WEST ILSLEY Village Hall Committee Presents

A

## Nativity Play



Get into the Festive Spirit!

Come and join us in Rowles Farm Barn to see the play performed by village children and linger afterwards to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday 19th December, 4pm

Not to be missed - one night only!

For tickets - £5 adults £2.50 under 16s

Anna 281784 Sue 281354 Alexandra 281306

All profits to the Raising the Roof fund

## AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

At the November service our topic was "Advent" and we discussed preparing for Christmas and the significance of "giving". The children helped to wrap a present for families at the Women's Refuge in Newbury. To encourage the children to continue thinking of "giving" at Christmas as well as "receiving" we are asking parents to allow their children if they wish to bring a small gift/gifts (unwrapped) to the Crib Service on Sunday 19 December (4pm at Rowles Farm) to form part of a larger donation to the Refuge. Any items such as toiletries, children's toys, paper, pens, etc would be much appreciated; also any shoe boxes you may have in order to make up some parcels for the families.

The Afterschool service in December will be replaced by the Crib Service. The January service will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> in the church at 4pm on the topic of "Christingle" and we look forward to seeing you there.

The Afterschool services are well supported but we would love to see new faces or friends from outside

the village. Each service lasts approximately half an hour followed by drinks for the children. If you would like more information please contact Denise Brown on 01635 281825 or Liz Dray on 01488 638749.

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Half Set of Mitsubishi Golf Clubs including Bag. Suit  
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4 wooden legged, Formica topped tables  
20" x 40" x 22" high

Ex Village Hall coffee tables.  
Ideal for potting shed or messy play!

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**LUXURY WREATHS  
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**



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VERONICA SMITH

01635 281704



**Christmas BINGO**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

**In the Village Hall**

7.30pm

All the Family welcome  
Bingo and Raffle Prizes

*Bring your own refreshments*

Admission: Adults 20p, Children 10p

Bingo Books 30p

Any donation of prizes to Audrey, 5 Fir Tree Cottages

*Proceeds to Village Hall Funds*

Marnie is selling the Nordman Spruce (non-dropping from Yattendon) from the end of November at 1 Catmore Road again. Yattendon are selling the trees at: for up to 6ft and over 6ft: £28/£45 respectively. I can get a **village**

**price of £17.50 and £20.**

For enquiries please call 281786.



## NEWS FROM THE GORES DOWN UNDER!



Seasons Greetings from Australia and hello to all our old friends in West Ilsley! If that is not the cheapest Christmas card we have ever sent then there is certainly no hope for the future!

We have been here in Beecroft (which is a north western Sydney suburb) for nearly a year now, the time

has flown by very fast. We are now looking forward to spending Christmas in the sun by the pool! Last year it was 40C over Christmas so it may be IN the pool! Like the UK there are already Christmas trees and decorations everywhere (it is only 17<sup>th</sup> November!), but the funny thing is that all the Christmas cards have snow on them when it is roasting hot outside, home from home except for the temperature!

It has been very easy for us to settle in here, the Australians are very friendly and have made us feel very welcome, we have all made lots of Australian friends as well as lots of new English friends (we have found out that Beecroft attracts a lot of English people!). Beecroft is just like a village, albeit a slightly bigger village than WI! There are lots of shops with a couple of supermarkets, 2 bakers, 3 butchers, 3 estate agents, 4 cafes, 7 restaurants and any number of hairdressers, but there is a definite village atmosphere and everybody is very friendly. The only thing that is missing is a pub!

Work, school, shops and the train station are all within walking distance of our house so it is a huge change from West Ilsley. However, we are living in a house in a bush reserve, so, like The Barracks, can't see any neighbours.

We miss our West Ilsley friends and all the village activities and hope you all have had a good year. We are coming home in April so look forward to seeing everybody and all the drinks that I am SURE you will all be queuing up to buy us.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Jo, David, Alex and Victoria



## ILSLEY UNDER FIVES

Ali Allan

Chair- Ilsley Under Fives

I am pleased to say that we have found a replacement for Emma Bartholomew as Playgroup Supervisor. Her name is Cindy Weight and she will be starting with us in January. She is NNEB trained and has 3 children of her own. Cindy has spent a

couple of sessions already getting to know the children and experiencing what goes on and will be working closely with Hayley to ensure little disruption to the children on their return after Christmas. Emma's last day will be at the Playgroup Christmas Party on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, if you would like to contribute to Emma's leaving present please

see Hayley or Cathy Paterson. Emma has been with us for 5 years and now that her children are all in full time education feels she'd like to do something on a more regular basis. She has made a marked contribution to Playgroup and we wish her well in whatever she decides to do.

As mentioned, the Christmas Parties for both Toddlers and Playgroup are on the 8<sup>th</sup> December. Toddlers from 11-1pm and Playgroup for the normal session. We hope that Santa can take a break from his busy schedule to pay us a visit.

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, terms ends with a visit to 'Jack & The Beanstalk' at the Corn Exchange in Newbury. For those of you that have booked tickets these will be distributed before the 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Mum's Christmas meal will be at The Stag in Leckhamstead on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm, Details at Toddlers and Playgroup with menu or contact Sarah McNaught on 281700. Book your place early as numbers are limited. Payment to Sarah by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. (3 courses at £14.95 per head).

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December is the Ilsley Schools Christmas Bazaar (2pm-4pm) and again we are running Santa's Grotto. It should be a fun afternoon with all the regulars there, come and say hello.

### **Term restarts – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported us throughout the year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Just for a change, and to see how it works, we're wishing all our friends and neighbours in /from West Ilsley a very Merry Christmas via the WIN. We won't be putting cards through doors this year, and we have donated £20 to the Raising the Roof Appeal.*



**Merry Christmas!**

Mel and Andrea Cook

If you'd like to do something similar to this yourself next year, please let one of the Editors know